

## REMARKS

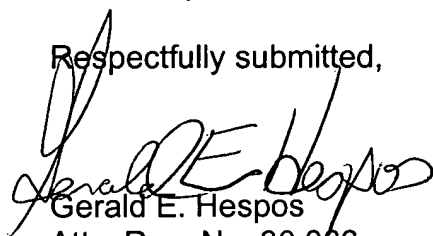
Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Claims 4, 6 and 8-12 have been amended to eliminate the multiple dependency that had existed in those claims and to thereby avoid the significant U.S. government surcharges for applications with multiple dependent claims. New claims 13-20 have been added to approximate the coverage that was intended by the original multiple dependent claims.

The specification also has been amended to insert the section headings required by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Additionally, the Abstract has been amended into a single paragraph and without objectionable terms such as "invention" and "comprises".

Early and favorable action on the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos  
Atty. Reg. No. 30,066  
Customer No. 001218  
CASELLA & HESPOS LLP  
274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703  
New York, NY 10016  
Tel. (212) 725-2450  
Fax (21) 725-2452

Date: March 4, 2005